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Testimony on Vermont's Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Education House Education Committee January 31, 2013

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Publicly Funded Prekindergarten (Pre-K) Enrollment:

	Pre-K census	EEE census	Pre-K Total*	Estimated Participation Rate**
FY07	3,983	885	4,691	39.1%
FY08	4,150	1,023	4,968	41.4%
FY09	4,246	1,067	5,100	42.5%
FY10	4,329	1,061	5,178	43.1%
FY11	4,750	1,003	5,552	46.3%
FY12	4,442	1,166	5,375	44.8%
FY13***	4,633	1,075	5,493	45.8%

*Pre-K total = #Pre-K + 80% children receiving EEE
**Based on estimated 6,000 children per cohort year (3's + 4's)
**Source is Oct 1 Census School Data Report 2012-2013
CAUTION: These are self-reported data

Supervisory Union Participation in Pre-K (FY13):

- 57 supervisory union or school districts (ex. Burlington) offered pre-K education, although not all towns within these SUs offered pre-K; 3 SU/SD did not offer pre-K
- 31 (54%) of the 57 SU/SDs that offer pre-K have partnerships with qualified early education and care programs
- 23 (40%) of these SU/SDs have partnerships with Head Start programs
- 4 (7%) SU/SDs only offer pre-K through partnerships with community early education and care programs; they do not operate any school-based pre-K programs
- 27 (47%) of all SU/SDs that offer pre-K operate school-based pre-K programs AND have partnerships with early education and care programs

Towns Participating in Pre-K (FY13)*

- 225 towns offer resident children access to pre-K; 25 do not
- Many of the towns that do not have very small populations
- The largest towns that do not offer pre-K are: Rutland, Colchester, Woodstock

*According to the latest school census data,

Measuring the Progress of Children in Pre-K

- Act 62 requires annual progress reports of any child included in the school census as receiving Pre-K or Essential Early Education (EEE) services for four or more hours per week [§2609(1)]
- Starting in 2012-2013, the progress of all children will be assessed using Teaching Strategies GOLD; training has been provided during the past two years on this assessment tool

Cost of Publicly Funded Prekindergarten Education (FY12)

Act 62 requires SU/SDs to report Pre-K and EEE costs separately, although that is sometimes difficult to do. This situation is further muddled since most children receiving EEE services also participate in Pre-K. Hence, determining the true costs of Pre-K is challenging.

According to Expenditure Reports submitted for 2011-2012 (the most recent data), SU/SDs reported the following:

Expenditures designated as "Pre-K" were \$19,242,692

Expenditures designated as "EEE" totaled \$20,049,618 of which about 25% was covered through federal funds (primarily Part B Flow Through dollars). Another 25% or so was covered by State EEE grants, and the remaining \$9,973,560 came from the Education Fund